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China, Peoples Republic of

FAIRS Product Specific

General Rule for Restricting Excessive Packaging (draft for comment)

2007

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Report Highlights:

This is an UNOFFICIAL translation of a draft national standard on General Rules for Restricting Excessive Packaging, which was published by the Standardization Administration of China for public comment. The impact of the proposed standard on trade is unclear.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1]
[CH]

Summary

The Standardization Administration of China (SAC) recently published a draft national standard for public comment. With a stated aim of protecting consumers and using resources in an efficient manner, the proposed standard on the General Rule for Restricting Excessive Packaging regulates packaging practices. Some of the packaging practices reference in the rule include the number of package layers and interspace ratio. Importantly, only one section of this rule (Clause 5.1.1) is mandatory.

SAC does not provide an adoption date but the deadline for comment period is on June 25, 2007. The impact on trade is unclear. Despite of U.S. exporting industries are recommended to comment on this rule. This rule has not been notified to the World Trade Organization.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

National Standard of the People's Republic of China
GB XXXX-200X

General Rule of Restricting Excessive Packaging for Commodity (Draft for comment)

Issued on: XX—XX—XX

Implemented on: XX—XX—XX

Issued by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Standardization Administration of China

Preamble

Clause 5.1.1 of this standard is a mandatory clause and the remaining clauses are recommended.

Annex A, B and C of this standard are normative annexes.

This standard is proposed by the China Standardization Research Institute.

This standard falls within the jurisdiction of TC49 National Technical Committee on Packaging Standardization

Drafting entity of this standard: XXXXXXXX

Main drafter(s) of this standard: XXXXXX

1 Scope

This standard sets forth the general principles of restricting excessive packaging for commodities as well as quantitative requirements for marketing and packaging of certain commodities.

This standard applies to commodities sold in the markets but does not include commodities for export.

2 Normative reference

The following normative documents contain provisions that have been cited and become part of the standard. For referenced documents with dates, their subsequent amendments to, or revisions (excluding contents of corrections) of, do not apply. For referenced documents without dates, their latest versions are applicable.

GB/T 4122.1 Terminology of Packaging (Basics)

3 Terminology and definitions

The following terminologies and definitions established in GB/T 4122.1 and apply to this standard.

3.1 Excessive packaging

Packaging that is more than enough to protect the commodities, facilitate transport, introduce or describe the basic functions of the commodities in terms of interspace ratio, package layers and package cost.

3.2 Original package

Package in direct contact with the product

3.3 Package layers

Number of layers fully encompassed between the marketing package and the original package.

3.4 Interspace ratio

Percentage of the void space inside the package compared to the package volume.

4 Requirements

4.1 Basic requirements

Packaging shall be made in accordance with the principles of "protecting the commodities, facilitating transport, introducing and/or describing the basic functions of the commodities". In packaging, it is necessary to select appropriate materials, determine reasonable volume and layers, adopt appropriate type and structure, reduce the consumption of packaging materials and packaging costs, make efficient use of the resources, safeguard the interests of the consumers, reduce the packaging wastes and mitigate the impact on the environment.

4.2 Requirements for reducing the consumption of packaging materials

On the premise that basic functional requirements of commodity packaging are met, it is necessary to evaluate the appropriateness of consumption of the packaging materials and take necessary improvement measures depending on the conclusion of evaluation to reduce the consumption of packaging materials.

4.3 Requirements for proper materials

Proper packaging materials shall be selected depending on the features and quality of the commodity. Generally, single material or packaging materials that can be separated easily shall be adopted for commodity packaging. The packaging materials shall preferably be recyclable materials that abound locally. Disposal of waste packages shall be evaluated. Materials that cannot be finally treated (buried or incinerated) shall not be used.

4.4 Requirements for simplified structure

On the premise that basic function requirements of commodity packaging are met, it is necessary to simplify the packaging structure and functions. It is not desirable to use complicated type or structure, or provide additional functions that are not required. The packaging layers and space shall match the quality and specification of the goods contained in the package to avoid misunderstanding by consumers.

4.5 Requirements for Control of Packaging Cost

Effective measures shall be taken to control the direct packaging cost in accordance with the requirements of section 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. Maximum efforts shall be made to avoid any indirect cost arising from improper packaging materials selected, excessive void space and complicated structure.

Considerations shall be given to the cost of full life cycle of the package and the enterprises are encouraged to utilize recyclable and renewable packaging materials.

5 Quantitative requirements, measurement methods and judgment criteria for marketing packages of certain commodities

5.1 Quantitative requirements for marketing packaging of certain commodities

5.1.1 The interspace ratio and number of layers of packages for certain commodities shall comply with the requirements in Table 1.

Table 1

Commodity category		Index	
		Interspace ratio	Package layer
Health food		30% or less	3 layers or less
Cosmetics		55% or less	3 layers or less
Certain foods	Alcoholic Beverages	55% or less	3 layers or less
	Cake	55% or less	3 layers or less
	Tea	25% or less	3 layers or less
	Grain	10% or less	2 layers or less
Note: Cake does not include moon cakes.			

5.1.2 The packaging cost shall not exceed 15% of the ex-factory price of the commodity

5.2 Measurement and calculation methods

5.2.1 The measurement and calculation method of interspace ratio of packaging can be found in Annex A.

5.2.2 The method to determine the packaging layers can be found in Annex B

5.2.3 The method to calculate the ratio between the packaging cost and the ex-factory price can be found in Annex C.

5.3 Judgment criteria

5.3.1 The packaging of a commodity is judged acceptable if both the interspace ratio and packaging layers of the commodity package comply with the requirements of table 1 and unacceptable if either of them fails to meet the requirements.

5.3.2 Where the commodity inside all original packages in the marketing package is equal to or less than 30ml or 30g, it may be exempted from the requirements for the interspace ratio and packaging layers.

5.3.3 Where the commodity inside all original packages in the marketing package is greater than 30ml or 30g, equal to and smaller than 50ml or 50g, the requirements for the interspace ratio of packaging may be relaxed, but the maximum interspace ratio shall not exceed 60%.

5.3.4 Where the marketing package does not comply with the requirements of table 1, if there is sufficient evidence that the increased interspace ratio and packaging layers are necessary to protect the products, extend their life span and satisfy particular requirements of consumers, are in compliance with the requirements given in chapter 4 of this standard, necessary evaluation has been made and effective measures have been taken, the requirements may be relaxed appropriately.

Annex A

(Normative Annex)

Calculation Method of Interspace Ratio of Packaging

A.1 Formula for calculation of interspace ratio of packaging

Where:

- Interspace ratio
- Volume of marketing package of commodity, namely the volume of the smallest cube of the external marketing package of the commodity
- Total volume of original packages of the commodity, namely, the sum of original packaging volumes of the commodities. The original packaging volume of commodity refers to the volume of the smallest cube of external original package of the commodity.

A.2 If the marketing package of a commodity contains products listed in the label, its volume or original packaging volume (if any) shall be included into the total volume of the original package of the commodity. However, to realize normal functions of the commodity, the volume of additional commodities included in the marketing package of the commodity is included into the total volume of the original package of the commodity, for instance, opening tools of the original package, product instructions or other accessories.

Annex B

(Normative Annex)

Method for Calculation of Packaging Layers

B.1 Any package that fully encompasses a designated commodity is considered as a layer.

“Fully encompassing” means the package method that prevents the commodity from coming out.

B.2 The original package inside the marketing package is defined as layer 0; the package fully encompassing the commodity that is in contact with the original package is defined as layer 1 and so on. The outermost layer of the marketing package is defined as layer N, which is also the number of packaging layers.

B.3 Where the same marketing package contains two or more commodities of different packaging layer numbers, calculate the number of packaging layers of commodities listed in table 1 and judge whether it conforms to relevant provisions in accordance with the requirements for the number of packaging layers in table 1.

Annex C

(Informative Annex)

Method for calculation of percentage of the packaging cost to the ex-factory price

C.1 Formula for calculation of percentage of the packaging cost to the ex-factory price

Where:

- Percentage of the packaging cost to the ex-factory price
- Packaging cost
- Ex-factory price of product

C.2 Calculation method of packaging cost.

C.2.1 Calculation of packaging cost shall be determined from the perspective of the commodity manufacturer.

C.2.2 Packaging cost is the sum of all packaging costs from layer 1 to layer N.

C.2.3 The packaging cost shall be calculated in accordance with the contract signed between the commodity manufacturer and the packaging supplier; in the absence of such a contract, the packaging cost shall be calculated using the average sales price of the package in the market.

C.3 Calculation method of ex-work price.

C.3.1 The ex-work price of a commodity shall be calculated in accordance with the contract signed between the commodity manufacturer and the dealer; in the absence of such a contract, the ex-work price of the commodity shall be calculated using the average sales price of the commodity in the market.

C.3.2 The average sales price in the market shall be calculated using the average sales price of the commodity in the area.

END TRANSLATION